



# DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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## News Release

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## Free Rapid HIV Tests Available In Davis County

(Clearfield, Utah) – Utah's HIV Awareness Week is June 27 through July 1, 2011, with June 27 being National HIV Testing Day. During this week, people who are at risk for HIV infection are encouraged to "take the test, take control" and seek out HIV counseling and testing.

In conjunction with this awareness week, free rapid HIV tests and other sexually transmitted disease (STD) testing will be offered in partnership with the Davis County Health Department and the Midtown Community Health Center. Rapid testing will be available on Wednesday, June 29, from 3-6 p.m. at Midtown's Davis County Medical Clinic, 22 South State Street, Suite 1007, Clearfield. No appointment is needed. Walk-ins are welcome.

A rapid HIV test produces very quick results, in approximately 20 minutes.

Lewis Garrett, director of the Davis County Health Department, said, "Anyone who has ever had unprotected sex or shared needles with a partner whose HIV status was unknown should consider being tested for HIV."

"The only way to find out if you have HIV infection is to get tested," Garrett said.

"Knowledge of HIV status is essential. If you test positive for HIV, you can access necessary treatment and take precautions to prevent infecting others."

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In Davis County, 9 new cases of HIV were identified in 2010. Approximately 2,551 Utah residents have been diagnosed and are living with HIV/AIDS. This under-represents the actual number of individuals who are infected with HIV. It does not include those who are infected and have not been tested, according to Garrett.

HIV is the virus that causes AIDS. Almost 40 percent of people with HIV are not diagnosed until they have progressed to AIDS. This can be up to 20 years after they first became infected with the virus. The virus may spread to other people because they don't know they have it. "For those at risk, finding out your HIV status is the first step to improving your health and the health of your partners," Garrett said.

Free STD/HIV testing is a service regularly offered by the Midtown Community Health Center, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 2-5 p.m. Test results may take 5-10 days.

Beginning in July, Davis County Health Department will offer free rapid HIV testing on a regular basis. For individuals wanting same day results, they may drop in on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 3-6 p.m.

Additional information about HIV testing is available by calling the Davis County Health Department Disease Hotline at 801-525-5200 or by visiting [www.daviscountyutah.gov/health](http://www.daviscountyutah.gov/health). All calls are confidential.

For more information about National HIV Testing Day, visit [www.hivtest.org](http://www.hivtest.org).

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